

Recreation Advisory Board 2014 Annual Report

The Recreation Advisory Board (RAB) meets every other month on the second Monday of each month at 12:30pm in the first floor conference room of City Hall in January, March, May, July, September and November.

Mission

Advises the City of Asheville in matters affecting recreation policies, programs, finances, and land acquisition related to total community recreation programs.

Key Accomplishments

Actions

RAB approved the proposal by the Downtown Area Residential Neighbors (DARN) to name the fountain in Pritchard Park in honor of DARN founder and park volunteer Trina Mullen who passed away in 2013.

Presentations

The Board heard presentations on projects that affect City parks and recreation facilities.

- John McGovern, president of Recreation Accessibility Consultants (RAC), presented the Parks and Facilities Audit Report of the city's compliance with the American's Disabilities Act guidelines. The ADA guidelines were updated in 2010 and enacted in 2012.
- Dave Thompson, veterinarian from the Animal Hospital of North Asheville, made a presentation on behalf of the Friends of North Asheville Dog Park (FNADP). FNADP proposed a dog park in North Asheville and requested a partnership with the City of Asheville.
- Mariate Echiverry in the Transportation Department presented an update on the Town Branch and Clingman Forest Greenways funded by the TIGER II grant. The grant focuses on transportation features, urban renewal and development.
- Stephanie Monson from the Office of Economic Development provided an update on Riverside Drive Development Plan which was also funded through the TIGER II grant. The plan includes 10 acres of city-owned property on the French Broad River front.
- Ed Sherry, Transition Manager for the Buncombe County Library, Recreation & Culture Authority, presented information on a potential proposal on the Charters of Freedom Monument to be located in Pack Square Park, which is a gift from Vance Patterson, and a replica of the three charters at the National Archives that includes the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Board Profile and Operations

- The board bid farewell to Cecil Bothwell as the City Council liaison and welcomed Chris Pelly as the new liaison.
- The Recreation Advisory Board held its retreat on January 30, 2014. The RAB 2014 goals and progress report is attached.
- The Board appointed Hutch Kerns as Chair and Josh O'Conner as Vice Chair for 2014-2015.

- Wayne Wheeler was appointed RAB liaison to the Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission, followed by the appointment of Pat Dennehy.
- Josh O’Conner was appointed at the RAB liaison to the Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation.
- The term of membership ended for board members Mildred Nance-Carson and Jordan Veale. Wayne Wheeler resigned from the Board.
- RAB roster at the close of 2014:

Hutch Kerns, Chair

Josh O’Conner, Vice Chair

Forrest Merithew

Barry Mundt

Todd Dunnuck

Pat Dennehy

Ashley Arrington

Bob Pierce

Kim Reed

Chris Pelly, City Council Liaison

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**Recreation Advisory Board
2014 Goals**

Focus Area: Communications

Goal #1: Develop relationship with City Council

Action Steps

1. RAB build and enhance relationship with City Council liaison
2. City Council liaison represent RAB with full Council
3. RAB establish relationships with all Council members

Report

1. RAB member attended City Council meeting on September 9, 2014 to hear agenda item on the Riverside Drive Re-Development Plan.
2. RAB Chair attended the Mayor's Boards and Commissions Luncheon

Goal #2: Represent RAB with stakeholders

Action Steps

1. Represent RAB with the Cultural and Recreation Authority
2. RAB appoint exofficio to the Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation
3. RAB engage with Friends of the WNC Nature Center

Report

1. RAB appointed Josh O'Conner to the Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation
2. RAB appointed Wayne Wheeler to the Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission, followed by Pat Dennehy.
3. RAB appointed Bob Pierce to engage with the Friends of the WNC Nature Center.

Focus Area: Community Outreach and Public Engagement

Goal #1: Develop a process to engage with members of the public and community outreach

Action Steps

1. RAB host public engagement sessions with neighbourhoods
2. RAB participate in public forums on parks and recreation projects
3. RAB attend and serve in an official capacity in parks and recreation functions such as grand opening, groundbreaking and donation ceremonies
4. Periodically conduct monthly RAB meetings in parks and facilities

Report

1. RAB members participated in public meetings on the Montford Center Complex Master Plan.

2. RAB members participated on public meetings and focus group on the Aston Park Tennis Center to process public comment and report to the City Council Finance Committee.

Focus Area: Partnerships

Goal #1: Enhance partnerships with Asheville Parks and Recreation Department

Action Steps

1. RAB host annual volunteer community service work day in a park or facility in conjunction with a community partner
2. RAB consider hosting a partnership expo to bring all partners together in a central location to demonstrate their partnership with the City

Report

1. RAB partnered with the Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation on October 4, 2014 for the Our Parks Day to spread new mulch on the trail at Haw Creek Park.

Focus Area: Finance and Budget

Goal #1: Participate in the Parks and Recreation Department capital improvement budget process

Action Steps

1. RAB review and adopt annual capital improvement priorities and budget proposal
2. RAB represent adopted capital improvement priorities and budget proposal to City Council Liaison and to all Council members

Report

1. RAB heard report on the Priority Based Budgeting Model in which staff is currently participating as led by the Finance Department.
2. RAB heard update on the Parks and Recreation Department fees and charges study, and will meet with the consultant Matrix Consulting Group in February 2015.